The
The Thoreau Society Bulletin

ISSN 0040-6406 Number 212 Fall 1995

1995 Annual Meeting of The Thoreau Society

Unprecedented activity was a phrase Society members used to describe the previous year's flurry of events. Another was exciting opportunities. Such were the buzz words after this year's Annual Meeting, held once again at First Parish Church and Meeting House and Concord Academy in Concord, MA.

Activities began with registration, shared meals and receptions on Thursday and Friday July 6 and 7. This year we were honored to have three overseas members joining the lively conversations, delicious meals, and refreshing drink—Angelo Piller of Milano, Italy; Alan Phipps of Stockport, England; and Koh Kasegawa of Japan.

Nearly one hundred fifty attended the Society's business meeting at the First Parish Church, where President Joel Myerson told Society members about the three major Thoreau collections (Adams, Harding and Robbins) donated to the Society and the vigorous plans for the Thoreau Institute. We were honored to present distinguished scientist and scholar, E.O. Wilson as our keynote speaker. Wilson's riveting slide show and lecture on biological diversity was unquestionably a highlight of this year's activities. Before members gathered for the traditional luncheon and quiz, honorary board member Malcolm Ferguson presented Anne McGrath with the first Walter Harding Distinguished Service Award. *(See related story)*

Later that afternoon Society members visited our new store across from Walden Pond for a book-signing and reception. Noted authors Anne LaBastille (*Woodswoman, Beyond Black Bear Lake, Women in Wilderness*), and E.O. Wilson (*The Diversity of Life, The Ants, On Human Nature*), along with illustrator Michael McCurdy (*The Winged Life, Clear Sky, Pure Light*), signed books and enjoyed lemonade and watermelon with a wet (we weathered pouring rain), but resolute rally of members. The day's activities closed with a magnificent presentation by noted nature writer and woodswoman Anne LaBastille.

On Sunday morning, Society member and landscape architect Walter Brain led a group on an interpretive walk to the Great Fields. The events finished on Sunday afternoon with a panel discussion between the Board of Directors and assembled members about the many Society developments that have taken place during the past year. Participants excitedly chatted about the new on-line capabilities the Thoreau Institute will offer, the extraordinary value of the newly donated collections, and the trailblazing momentum that will continue through the next year.

"HOPE AND THE FUTURE FOR ME ARE NOT IN LAWNS AND CULTIVATED FIELDS, NOT IN TOWNS AND CITIES, BUT IN THE IMPERVIOUS AND QUAKING SWAMPS." *Walking*
Henry David Thoreau

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The Thoreau Society Bulletin is published quarterly by The Thoreau Society.

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The Thoreau Society, Inc., is an international not-for-profit organization founded to stimulate interest in the life, works and philosophy of Henry David Thoreau.

To fulfill its mission, the Society:

- conducts an educational and public outreach program in collaboration with the Concord Museum in Concord, (508) 369-9763. Please call the Museum's Director of Education, Jayne Gordon, to schedule a presentation.
- owns and operates The Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond, a visitor's center with a bookstore and gift shop. The Shop is located at the Walden Pond State Reservation.
- operates and develops programming for The Thoreau Institute, in partnership with the Isis Fund/Walden Woods Project.
- sponsors various Thoreau-related educational programs and excursions throughout the year.

Membership in the Society includes subscriptions to its two publications, *The Concord Saunterer* (published each Autumn) and *The Thoreau Society Bulletin* (published quarterly). Society members receive a 10% discount on all merchandise purchased from The Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond and advance notice about Society programs, including the Annual Meeting held in Concord each July. Contact The Thoreau Society administrative offices in Lincoln, Massachusetts for membership information.

The Thoreau Society Directory

Communications relating to *The Concord Saunterer* should be addressed to Ronald Wesley Hoag, The Thoreau Society, Inc., Department of English, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353, U.S.A.; tel: (919)328-6580; fax: (919) 328-4889; Internet: enhoag@ecuvm.cis.ecu.edu.

Inquiries about merchandise (including books and mail-order items) should be directed to Stephanie Kornfeld, Merchandise Manager, The Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond, 915 Walden Street, Concord, MA 01742-4511, U.S.A.; tel: (508)287-5477; fax: (617)259-1470; Internet: Ttsshop@aol.com.

Membership questions should be directed to Tom Harris, communications regarding *The Thoreau Society Bulletin* should be directed to Deb Caton, Assistant Executive Director, and all other inquiries should be directed to The Thoreau Society, Inc., 44 Baker Farm, Lincoln, MA 01773-3004, U.S.A.; tel: (617) 259-9411; fax: (617)259-1470; Internet: tsattip@aol.com.

The Thoreau Society Bulletin is edited by Bradley P. Dean and Debra A. Caton.

Design & Layout courtesy of Karen Merrill.

Anne Root McGrath Receives First Walter Harding Distinguished Service Award

Malcolm Ferguson

[Editors' Note: At its meeting in Lincoln, Massachusetts, on 10 December 1994, the Board of Directors of the Thoreau Society voted to establish a Distinguished Service Award in honor of the Society's Founding Secretary, Walter Harding, and in recognition of outstanding contributions to the Society. The Board also voted to present the first Distinguished Service Award to Anne Root McGrath, the Society's Educational Coordinator, a past president of the Society, and the past curator of the Thoreau Lyceum. When presenting the Distinguished Service Award to Ms. McGrath at the Society's annual meeting, Malcolm Ferguson, Concord resident and Program Committee co-chair, read the following tribute.]

Consider for a moment Moncure Conway. Before the Civil War, he was a Southerner who moved to Concord, being opposed to Slavery. He lived in the Main Street house now occupied by Jack and Diana Clymer and family. Conway was probably attracted to Concord by Ralph Waldo Emerson.

He reported in his journal "that Professor Asa Gray, the leading botanist in America, had called on Mrs. Sarah Bradford Ripley, and found her instructing a student in differential calculus, correcting the Greek translation of another, and at the same time shelling peas and rocking her grandchild's cradle with her foot."

Another remarkable Concord woman was the equally gifted, equally versatile Mary Moody Emerson, Ralph Waldo Emerson's aunt.

When Van Wyck Brooks wrote *The Flowering of New England*, with its chapters on Concord, this anecdote about Mrs. Ripley and of Concord's women and their role in its climate was singled out as that best-seller's most significant highlight.

In the years since Miss Emerson and Mrs. Ripley's time there have been other Concord women (and men) not all gifted in differential calculus (or indeed, like Emerson, quite indifferent about it), yet who have contributed to sustain the Thoreau Society and welcome it to Concord over the years.

Not all of these were Concord-born, as indeed Henry Thoreau was, as the only one of the classic authors born in Concord, and at a most opportune time.

The list is a long one and I will mention here from the Society's beginning Ruth Wheeler and Gladys Hosmer. They welcomed on behalf of Concord Walter Harding, Frederick McGill, Stephen Thomas, and Raymond Adams and his wife Charlotte.

Last year at this hour we honored Mary Sherwood for her role in the Society and the Lyceum.

This year I would like to pay special acknowledgment to a born Concordian who has contributed over twenty-five years to the Thoreau Society and the Thoreau Lyceum.

Anne Root McGrath, the steadfast curator of the Thoreau Lyceum and for a year the Thoreau Society's President, made possible the survival of the Thoreau Society and the Thoreau Lyceum as the latter was merged into the Society.

Thanks to the quiet generosity of Robert and Eleanor Moore, and the efforts of the Society members, a number of things have been accomplished—achievements that will last longer than we will.

In its first quarter century, the Society produced useful and successful publications. It encouraged the Concord Free Public Library to acquire Thoreau material. This library is the official repository of the Thoreau Society's collection as well as its own.

> *"Concord and Walden are states of mind, constituting a 'climate for freedom.'"*

In the second quarter century, the Thoreau Society and Lyceum reprinted Harding and Meltzer's *Thoreau Profile* as a paperback, Edward Emerson's Thoreau biography as a hardback, Roland Wells Robbins's book on discovering the site of Thoreau's Walden house, and a Herbert Gleason photo calendar. Each of these books made a profit for the Society.

In addition to building an excellent working library, the Lyceum started a book shop and gift shop. Various projects to support the Society were applied in Concord—lecture series, Christmas greens

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(Photo by Tom Harris)

Turn-of-the-century manor located on the site of the new Thoreau Institute

LOCAL COMMUNITY ATTENDS PRESENTATION on THOREAU INSTITUTE

A small gathering of Thoreau Society supporters congregated for an early morning breakfast on Monday, September 18. The occasion provided our neighbors an opportunity to learn more about the Society's plans and particularly its role in the Thoreau Institute. Concord residents Di Clymer, Tom Ruggles, Claiborne Dawes, Peggy Brace and Tom Blodgett hosted the event, which was held on the future site of the Thoreau Institute *(above)*.

After Acting Executive Director Ellen Spear entertained guests with a tour of the property, she unveiled the architects' plans for the new building which will safely house the Society's collections, and explained the technology center and plans for multi-disciplinary curricula and programming. Pleased by the enthusiastic support for the Society's direction displayed by the assembly, Spear says she would welcome the opportunity to repeat the event for other community members. Please call Ms. Spear at (617) 259-9411 if you would like to help organize a presentation.

McGrath, *continued from page 2*

sales, and spring plant sales. Managing this with a small staff and a shoestring budget, Anne McGrath contributed her best Concordian ability, akin to those of Mrs. Ripley and Miss Emerson—giving children and adults accurate and interesting information about Henry Thoreau and her other Concord neighbors, past and present.

Anne McGrath's father was a farmer, as was her husband, Chick McGrath, and indeed are subsequent family members.

With the years the Thoreau Society must seek ways to continue to welcome out-of-towners to Concord and to furnish them by mail or by its futuristic substitutes with information, insights, and news of the many diverse interests of Concord's Thoreau and of Walden Woods' Thoreau.

Some sixty years ago, New England's Old Home Weeks became popular. Home folks didn't demand that one had been literally a native or descendant, or had earlier on visited Concord's ponds and woods—only that he or she know that there is today a Concord and a Walden to be treated well.

Sort of like President Kennedy's remark, "Ich bin ein Berliner"—or "I am a Concordian."

Let us acknowledge, then, the quarter-century role of Anne McGrath in welcoming real people to a real Concord as they came—as you and I have come—in person and in spirit or in spirit from afar.

Thank you.

Voices of Different Drummers

This column is dedicated to members' concerns. Please send your questions to the Society offices in Lincoln. We will respond to selected inquiries in future issues.

What is the Thoreau Institute?

As a physical entity, the Thoreau Institute consists of a turn-of-the-century manor in historic Walden Woods *(left)* and a soon-to-be-constructed library and technology center. The new building will house the world's most comprehensive research collection related to Thoreau and a technology center designed to provide teachers, students and the general public throughout the world with multi-disciplinary curricula and information relating to Thoreau. The Institute will host seminars covering contemporary issues associated with Thoreau . . . ecology, human rights, literature and land conservation.

The Isis Fund/Walden Woods Project and The Thoreau Society have embarked on an ambitious campaign to raise the millions needed to permanently endow The Thoreau Institute and ensure that valuable collections will be made accessible in perpetuity.

What research and educational facilities does The Thoreau Society provide now?

Currently, the Society's collections are located at the Concord Free Public Library. Society staff member Anne McGrath continues to delight Concord Museum visitors with her presentations about Henry David Thoreau.

How can I order books through the Society?

The Thoreau Society owns and operates The Shop at Walden Pond, located directly across from the pond. Orders and inquiries about books (and all other merchandise) are accepted by mail, fax, phone or e-mail. Please see the directory in this issue for contact information.

Noteworthy

The Thoreau Society Bulletin
As you may recall, the last issue announced a preliminary version of our new logo—a rendering of the small house Thoreau built on the shore of Walden Pond. We are very excited about including the logo as a permanent feature of our new bulletin design. The Society board and staff thank volunteer Karen Merrill for the new appearance of our bulletin. Karen, we applaud your tireless efforts and generosity of time and talent.

Membership surveys indicated a need for more information about Society plans and events. We have responded with the addition of two regular features making their debut in this issue: "Noteworthy" and "Voices of Different Drummers." Look for a calendar of events in the Winter 1996 Bulletin.

The Thoreau Society Shop at Walden
Over 7,000 customers have purchased gifts, books, and clothing from the shop since its opening in May. *Walden* is the most popular item with almost 1500 copies sold in four months. The shop offers mail-order merchandise *(see insert this issue)* and accepts major credit cards. Please see the directory for contact information. **We are pleased to offer Society members a 10% discount on all merchandise.**

- A portion of each bulletin, "Voices of Different Drummers," is reserved for your inquiries. Please send your questions to The Thoreau Society, Inc., 44 Baker Farm, Lincoln, MA 01773.

- Please carefully examine your address label and contact us with any corrections. We don't want you to miss any mailings.

- Make plans to attend the next Annual Meeting of the Thoreau Society, July 11 - 14, 1996, Concord, Massachusetts. Specific information on the gathering will be announced in the Winter 1996 issue .

American Literary Holdings on Exhibit

From *Jackson to Lincoln: Democracy and Dissent*, the current exhibition at the Pierpont Morgan Library is the largest and broadest ever mounted by the library on an American theme. The display, which runs through 7 January 1996, in addition to historical materials contains over fifty manuscripts and letters of Thoreau, Emerson and others from the Library's collection of American writers. Thoreau manuscripts on view include "Advantages and Disadvantages of Foreign Influence on American Literature" and several volumes of his journals, with the pine box in which he housed them.

The show's content is a combination of the Library's own holdings, and properties on deposit from the Gilder Lehrman Collection. The letters and other materials displayed have been selected to illuminate the decades preceding the Civil War, one of the most tumultuous periods in American history. The rivaling visions of democracy and forming expressions of disharmony are reflected in the literature of this period.

Manager's Choice

Beginning with this issue, we will feature an item selected by our Merchandise Manager. Our debut selection was chosen because of customer interest.

The Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond is delighted to spotlight Walter Harding's new annotated edition of *Walden* as our first selection.

Walden - An Annotated Edition
by Henry D. Thoreau
Edited by Walter Harding
Price to members (includes shipping & handling) - $30.50

[Editors' Note: The following appears on the back cover of Harding's Walden.]

On July 4, 1845, Henry David Thoreau moved into the cabin he had built on the shore of Walden Pond, thus beginning the most famous experiment in simple living in American history. On the 150th anniversary of that event, Houghton Mifflin, successor to Thoreau's original publisher, is proud to publish a new edition of Walden, annotated by the distinguished Thoreau scholar Walter Harding, and illustrated with Thoreau's own drawings. Even those who have read Walden many times will find much that is new in this edition, and those reading the book for the first time will discover why it has changed the lives of generations of readers.

(Photo by Tom Harris)

The Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond has sold nearly 1500 copies of Walden *in four months.*

Special Holiday Gifts at "Members Only" Savings

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Ironstone mug in white, almond, peach with Society logo in black.
$9.00 ea.

Thoreau Society Tote Bag
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$10.00 ea.
SPECIAL: 2 for $15.00

Books for Giving

We carry all of Thoreau's work in various editions, plus many biographical works. Request a current list of books available by sending a SASE to the shop at the address listed on the order form.

Walking - Proceeds from this Applewood Books edition help the Thoreau Society. **$5.95**

Wild Apples **$4.95**

Manager's Choice

Walden - Newest edition annotated by Walter Harding. Clothbound.
$30.00

Biographies by Robert Richardson

Emerson: A Mind on Fire
Clothbound. **$35.00**

Thoreau: A Life of the Mind
Paperback. **$14.95**

SPECIAL: Shambhala pocket editions make great stocking stuffers!

Walden, Backwoods and *Nature* - Paperback.
$18.00 set

Cape Cod - Princeton edition. Paperback. **$9.95**
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The Journals of Henry David Thoreau - Dover edition in two volumes. A thoughtful gift. Clothbound. **$130.00**

Great Short Works of Henry Thoreau - from Harper Perennial, edited by Wendell Glick. favorite selections including "A Winter Walk", "Letters to HGO Blake", "Resistance to Civil Government", and "Friendship". **$12.00**

Three By Anne LaBastille
She has lived alone in the Adirondack wilderness for over 25 years. Read the fascinating accounts of a woman who hears a "different drummer".

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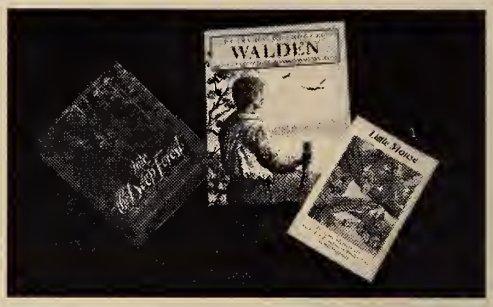
Holiday Treats for the Children on Your List

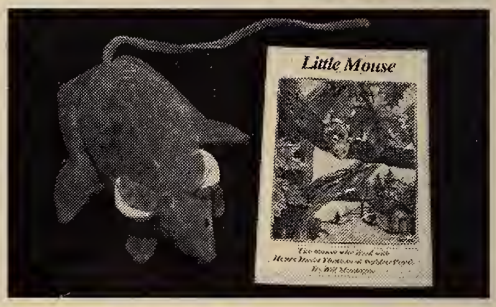
Books

Walden - Selections chosen by Steve Lowe with illustrations by Robert Sabuda bring Thoreau's classic alive for the first-time reader. **$14.95**

Into the Deep Forest with Henry David Thoreau - by Jim Murphy. Illustrated by Kate Kiesler **$14.95**

Little Mouse - by Bill Montague. The charming story of the mouse who lived with Thoreau at Walden Pond. **$7.95**





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For quick order fulfillment, fax your order to (508) 287-5620.

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City: State: Zip:
Phone:

Qty	Item/Title	Price Ea.	Total

Check/Money Order ☐ AMEX ☐
Mastercard/Visa ☐ Discover ☐
Card #
Exp. Date
Signature

Subtotal	
Member Discount, subtract 10%	
MA Residents add 5% sales tax	
Add Shipping/Handling	
TOTAL	

Society Membership Survey Results

David Fuller

Over two hundred members responded to the membership survey sent out with the Winter bulletin. The results indicated that the Society is, as one would expect, made up of individuals from all over the world, from many different professions and educational backgrounds, with opinions about what our Society is doing well and what we can do better.

The survey was designed in part to gather information about the current membership, and that it did. The Society is made up of a large variety of people, including truck drivers, geologists, attorneys, historians, bankers, roofers, educators, plumbers, librarians, naturalists, editors, students, ministers, engineers, steel workers, writers, retirees, and a host of others. Quite a few members live in California, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania; and, not surprisingly, the largest number live in Thoreau's home state of Massachusetts. Responses came from nearly every state. Our international members responded from Canada, Europe, Scandinavia, the Pacific Rim, the Mideast, and Australia.

The members who responded range in age from eleven to ninety, most of whom are in their forties and fifties. Fifteen percent are in their thirties or younger, while thirty-five percent are sixty or above. The men outnumber the women about three to one. The members too hold a wide range of academic degrees in a variety of fields of study. Those achieving the high school diploma represent seven percent of those who responded, the bachelor's degree twenty-three percent, master's thirty-five percent, the doctorate twenty-seven percent, and other degrees eight percent. The largest percentage of these degrees were earned in the 1960s (twenty-six percent) and 70s (twenty-one percent). Those graduating in the 1950s or earlier accounted for twenty-three percent of the responses, while those graduating in the 1980s and 90s combined accounted for twenty-nine percent of the responses.

Two responses came from members who joined the Society in the 1940s. Fourteen joined in the 1950s, thirty-three in the 60s, thirty-six in the 70s, and fifty-one in the 80s. And there were sixty people who joined in just the last five years. A personal interest in and admiration for Thoreau was given the most times as the reason for joining the Society, with others expressing similar interests in Thoreau research, studies, and readings. Other associated reasons for joining included: teaching Thoreau, helping preserve Walden Woods, living near Concord, sharing enthusiasm, and gaining access to scholarship and information. Quite a few said that they joined because of the influence of Walter Harding, an article they read, a friend, *Walden*, or *The Thoreau Society Bulletin*.

Members reported that they first learned about the Society and membership from a number of sources, including teachers, the bulletin, and other publications. The sources cited the most times were an acquaintance who was a member and a visit to Concord.

"In response to the question that asked members to comment on the vision Joel Myerson outlined for the Society in his presidential address during the 1994 annual meeting, over sixty-two percent of the members responding expressed unreserved support for the vision."

The survey also sought information about what benefits sustain continued membership in the Society. The bulletin, followed closely by the *Concord Saunterer*, was overwhelmingly indicated as the reason for people maintaining their membership. A distance behind the publications were the benefits of access to research, availability of books and gifts, opportunities to network with other members, and the annual meeting. Over sixty percent (one hundred twenty-four members) responded that they had never attended an annual meeting. Eight percent (sixteen members) indicated that they had attended only one meeting, and a little over thirteen percent (twenty-seven members) indicated they have attended six or more meetings.

Questions regarding our members' involvement in Thoreau presentations and research revealed a significant split in the membership. A little over fifty percent responded that they have never published or presented on Thoreau, while about forty-seven percent responded that they had. Over seventy percent responded that they are not conducting research on Thoreau or related topics; twenty-nine percent said they are conducting research.

The survey showed that our members possess a good understanding of Thoreau's life and times. Ninety-five percent of those responding indicated a general-to-comprehensive understanding of Thoreau's life. Only three percent expressed a limited knowledge of his life. Fifty-three percent noted that they possess a general understanding of nineteenth-century literature and culture; thirty-six percent indicated a comprehensive understanding. The survey also revealed that a large percentage of the membership has read a wide range of Thoreau's works. Thirty-seven percent have read all of Thoreau's major books and essays, and nearly one out of four have read all Thoreau's published works, including the journal.

Members reported that a variety of texts and experiences engaged their initial interest in Thoreau. As one would expect, *Walden* was the text that was most influential: of the two hundred and two surveys returned, *Walden* was noted one hundred and thirty-two times, which is seventy-eight percent of the respondents. For the essays, "Civil Disobedience", was identified as the most influential. Other Thoreau books, essays, and even lines and specific chapters were identified. Some books about Thoreau, such as Walter Harding's *The Days of Henry Thoreau*, were identified as well.

The experience noted as the one that engaged most members' interest in Thoreau was their visit to Walden Pond. Others explained a variety of spiritual and/or natural experiences, camping or canoeing, or personal experiences in Concord. Some identified the influence of courses, programs, or speeches about Thoreau.

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Notes & Queries

- We understand that Cape Cod or Highland Light, the one that Thoreau worries about being undercut and eroded away by the ocean, is now after a century and a half about to reach that point and this winter will be moved back 450 feet.
- Jeffery Michel of Lutzschena, Germany, writes us that an article in the German news magazine *Der Spiegel* ("Die Regierung ist schuld," 25 [1995]: 136-44) presents Thoreau as a potential ideological instigator of right-wing terror. But in issue 27 (1995, pp. 10-12) four letters from readers point out that Thoreau's views are misrepresented in the earlier article.
- Dick Winslow writes us of finding a multi-colored crayon message at Thoreau's cabin site, evidently left by a child, saying "I love Thoreau."
- The Thoreau Society at its annual meeting received a congratulatory letter from the Thoreau Foundation in Bangalore, India.
- MacDonnell Rare Books, 9307 Glenlake Drive, Austin, Texas 78730, has for sale a copy of the 1864 issue of *A Week* owned by Harriet Beecher Stowe for $3,250.

"I want to go soon and live away by the pond, where I shall hear only the wind whispering among the reeds. It will be success if I shall have left myself behind. But my friends ask what will I do when I get there? Will it not be employment enough to watch the progress of the seasons?"

Journal
December 24, 1841
Henry David Thoreau

Survey, *continued from page 5*

The survey also asked the members to rate Society services and provide comments about how it might carry out those purposes more effectively. Ninety-four percent expressed satisfaction with the bulletin and 89% with the *Concord Saunterer*. While a large portion of the respondents indicated that they did not know about the services provided by the Thoreau Lyceum, the annual meeting, or the access to research or correspondence with fellow Thoreauvians, the majority of those who did know about those services expressed satisfaction.

A large portion of the people responding thought that the most important function of the Society was to share discoveries and interpretations of Thoreau. The second most frequently identified function was to promote public awareness of Thoreau. Other important functions identified most often included: preserving and protecting the Walden Pond site, providing forums for people interested in Thoreau, publishing the bulletin, and maintaining an up-to-date Thoreau bibliography. Political activism was cited as a least important function by a few members.

To help the Membership Development Committee understand how it might encourage more members to join, the members suggested most frequently that it should get the word out that the Society exists by advertising widely in a variety of sources—not just in educational or scholarly circles, but also in environmental and naturalist publications. Other suggestions included appealing to young people; providing brochures to libraries, schools, and others; developing state or regional chapters; and asking current members to assist in inviting others interested in Thoreau to join.

The members also wrote a large number of specific suggestions about providing a wider exposure of information about Thoreau, as well as identifying specific publications and other media in which to advertise.

In response to the question that asked members to comment on the vision Joel Myerson outlined for the Society in his presidential address during the 1994 annual meeting (see TSB 208, pp. 1-3), over sixty-two percent of the members responding expressed unreserved support for the vision. Eighteen percent expressed mixed views by endorsing the vision but expressing concern about the resulting growth and other developments. Nine percent expressed opposition. Others admitted to not remembering or not having read his article.

The members made many helpful suggestions, one of the most common responses being that the Society should be more prompt with communications. Members also suggested that the Society should work for improvements at Walden Pond. Other suggestions were for the Society to set up regional chapters, spread the word of Thoreau to students in the elementary and secondary grades, and not overemphasize research and scholarship to the exclusion of the interests of members who are not scholars.

"A personal interest in and admiration for Thoreau was given the most times as the reason for joining the society."

This summary concentrates primarily upon the frequency and percentage of total responses to each question. In light of those frequencies, one can get a better sense of the general characteristics and views of the members. But sensitive to the power of the individual voice, we are also very aware that such a summary oversimplifies the richness and diversity of the membership. For that reason, each survey was read carefully (we hope as deservedly as each was written) and the individual responses noted. Members attached many interesting things to their surveys, from brochures, copies of articles, sample publications, book catalogues, personalized letters, and notices of Thoreau-related events, to a series of beautiful watercolor drawings illustrating Thoreau quotations. Individuals' extended and specific responses pointed to special concerns, some expressing the views that our Society does not need membership development, others strongly supporting the need to disseminate information about the Society to Thoreau enthusiasts. One can see from the results of this survey that our members on the whole remain enthusiastic about the Society, its mission, and goals.

The Membership Development Committee appreciates the time and effort (and expense) of each member who responded. And we apologize for the unrealistic deadline (a detail pointed out rightfully by many of our members) and the fact that no return envelope was enclosed with the forms indicated.

Your responses and suggestions have already been and will continue to be very

continued on page 7

Survey, *continued from page 6*

helpful. The information compiled from the survey will assist us in identifying committee objectives and projects. Our purpose, as was so strongly reaffirmed by the valuable survey results, is to spread the word about Thoreau and invite enthusiasts and scholars to join our diverse and interesting Society. By so doing, we can help maintain a Society made up of a variety of individuals who can continue to share with one another their interests in and discoveries about Thoreau.

FOLK SINGER PENS SONG about *WALDEN*

Loretta Sawyer

Folk music is said to be the root from which country and pop music sprouted. It's the natural expression of life; nothing is hidden between the lines of the verse.

So it's only natural that folk singer Michael Johnathon sings of love, life, earth and Thoreau.

Johnathon's creative and philanthropic flame was lit while watching legendary performer Pete Seeger perform at an environmental concert. Since then he has performed two thousand environmental concerts across the U.S. and Canada, and founded the Troubadour Project, an acoustic concert series developed to highlight worthy causes.

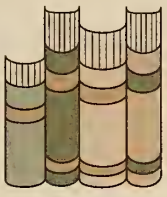
"Walden, the Ballad of Thoreau" appears on Johnathon's "Dreams of Fire" release on the Poetman label. "I was reading *Walden*" Michael said, " and that's what led to the writing of this ballad, reminding us that the best things in life are still free."

"Having people connect to a song " is all this artist wants. Johnathon lives simply in Mousie, Kentucky where he travels up and down the hollows of eastern Kentucky — banjo and guitar in hand, honing his craft.

> *"The finest qualities of our nature, like the bloom on fruits, can be preserved only by the most delicate handling."*
>
> *Walden*
> Henry David Thoreau

Additions to the Thoreau Bibliography

Walter Harding



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We are indebted to the following for information sent in for this bulletin: C. Burley, J. Eggert, R. Galvin, P. Huber, K. Kasegawa, and R. Pesha. Please keep Walter Harding (19 Oak Street, Geneseo, NY 14454) informed of items he has missed and new ones as they appear.

In the Next Issue

- Senator Kennedy, Don Henley, Sheldon Hackney and Ed Begley, Jr., speak at The Thoreau Institute Ground-breaking Ceremony
- Architects' renderings and floor plans of the library and technology center
- Complete description of the collections (Adams, Harding and Robbins) recently donated to the Thoreau Society

Society WISH List

Volunteers: The Thoreau Society administrative office in Lincoln needs general office help (answering phones, filing, data entry) and assistance with special projects and events.

Office furniture and equipment: We are on the lookout for a few comfortable desk chairs, guest seats, floor rugs, lamps and a functioning fax machine.

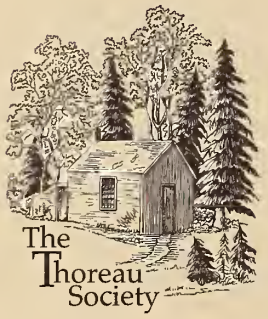
If you can help, please call us at (617)259-9411. Thank you for your support.

Acknowledgements

The Society is grateful to the following for their generosity and support:

Isis Fund/Walden Woods Project
Beacon Community Newspapers
The Concord Journal
Lincoln Journal
Boston TAB
Cambridge TAB
Applewood Books
The Colonial Inn
Levenger
Jacobson - Rost
Karen Merrill, *Graphic Artist*
Chip Chamberlain, *Photographer*
Dan Schmid, *General Contractor*

Society members receive a *10% discount* on all merchandise purchased at the Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond.



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